1966 30 1996

TRANSPORTER

Volunteers needed for snow removal

Volunteers are needed for snow duty this year. That's right, you read correctly. While most of us are enjoying the closing weeks of summer, Clint Griggs, NJDOT's new Snow Volunteer Coordinator, has issued a call for employees to train for the winter ahead.

Employees qualifying as a Snow Plow Driver will earn $27.20 per hour while the postition of Snow Representative, will earn $29. The Snow Rep will work with hired contractors to monitor their activities.

In order to expedite the testing and training process, applications must be submitted by September 15. Training for all drivers and reps will be completed by October 30.

Training will be provided for those who do not hold a Commercial Vehicle Driver License (CDL). Snow Plow Drivers will be subject to random drug and alcohol testing. Snow Reps do not require the CDL and are not subject to the random testing.

For more information, please contact your supervisor or Clint Griggs at 609-530-3740, fax 609-530-5281.

Governor Christine Todd Whitman
Commissioner Frank J. Wilson

August 1996
Vol. 30, No. 8

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NJDOT celebrates 30th anniversary

This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the creation of the New Jersey Department of Transportation by the State Legislature. We were the first state in the United States to adopt an integrated approach to transportation. USDOT did not become operational until nine months later.

Under the Transportation Act of 1966, the newly–named agency absorbed the functions of the State Highway Department as well as the Bureau of Aeronautics which was then part of Department of Conservation and Economic Development.

The Highway Department had a proud history of service beginning in 1892 under the State Board of Agriculture. The first State Commissioner of Public Roads, Edward Burrough, was appointed in 1894. The Department experienced numerous reorganizations over the next hundred years with the torch passing to current Commissioner Frank J. Wilson in 1994.

NJDOT Commissioners 1966-1996

David J. Goldberg	1966–1970
John C. Kohl	1970–1974
Alan Sagner	1974–1977
Louis J. Gambaccini	1978–1981
Anne P. Canby	1981–1982
John P. Sheridan Jr.	1982–1985
Roger A. Bodman	1985–1986
Hazel Frank Gluck	1986–1989
Robert Innocenzi*	1989–1990
Tom Downs	1990–1993
Kathy Stanwick*	1993–1994
Frank J. Wilson	1994 – present

*Acting

An early achievement of the newly–created NJDOT was the establishment of the Commuter Operating Agency (COA) which had the authority to contract with rail and bus carriers to conserve and improve commuter operations in the state. The COA evolved into NJ TRANSIT which became a separate entity in 1979.

In 1968 the Department published a Master Plan for Transportation which projected the need for $2.75 billion for highways and $375 million for public transportation in the decade to follow. By contrast, the NJDOT's FY96 capital budget was $1.096 billion and its operating expenses $163.7 million for the year while

(Continued on page 4)

Variable message signs enter the space age

Hydrogen–powered sign debuts in Trenton.

The variable message sign (VMS) familiar to motorists on many construction projects take a giant leap forward with the introduction of hydrogen fuel cell/solar power.

This type of VMS operates on a fuel cell that converts hydrogen gas into electricity. Its byproducts are heat and pure water. Unlike standard diesel–powered signs, it produces no emissions and noise. These fuel cells were originally developed by NASA to provide power and drinking water for all space missions since the Apollo program.

A solar-powered VMS retrofitted with two 90 pound cylinders filled with hydrogen gas can power a sign for over three weeks. When operated in conjunction with solar power, it is estimated the sign can operate up to eight months.

The sign has been displayed at public locations including the boardwalk in Atlantic City and the NJ State Fair by NJDOT's Office of Transportation Technology.

A contract was awarded to H–Power Corporation of Belleville to develop a retrofit for existing solar–powered signs.

Assistant Commissioner Tong presents awards for $avings

Assistant Commissioner Russell Tong presented Value Engineering Team Study awards to two teams saying that their recommendations could save the Department millions of dollars. (Left) A study of Route 42, I–76 and I–295 won the "Most Innovative Proposal" award for Carlton McVeigh, Thomas Sohn, Kanaga Arunachalam, Dennis DeGregory, Jeff Palmer, John Christian and Paul Truban. Not present were Chris Barretts and Lous Blandon. (Right) An award for a study of the Route 70 bridge over the Manasquan River went to Anthony Guerrieri, Chris Haritos, Timothy Bourne, Shuja Najem, Tom Anzabi And Ernest "Bub" Kovacs. Not present were Janet Fittipaldi, Edward Klump and Matthew Keamy.

Golfers get ready to swing again

True to form, dedicated NJDOT golfers, retirees and friends are practicing swings and putts while getting ready for their November outing to Myrtle Beach, SC.

In late March the same group braved the cool and blustery spring weather to participate in the third annual NJDOT golf trip to Ocean City, MD.

After spending days golfing at the Ocean City Gold and Yacht Club, River Run and the Beach Club, the group spent evenings dining on Maryland crab at one of the oldest eateries in Ocean City.

Tom Wospil of Capital Program Management played in top form, with rounds in the 80s. The hardy golfers included NJDOT employees Lou Varga, Accounting; Howard Immordino, External Affairs; Dennis Keck, Operations; George Kuziw, Data Technology; Tom Wospil, Capital Program Management; Rich Jablonski, Accounting; Steve Warren, Traffic Engineering and John Dourgarian, Communications.

Friends and retirees included Charlie Balut, Jim Kish, John Therkelsen, Rich Geiger, Fred Bramley, Ed Baker, Walt Sliwowski and Pete McCabe.

Electric vehicles are the hit of the State Fair

The Department's electric car and van (see story in the July *Transporter*) and the hydrogen/solar Variable Message signs (see page one) drew crowds of interested visitors to this display which part of the Department's high visibility at the fair. Dozens of NJDOT volunteers staff the booths and exhibits and answered questions from citizens.

TRANSPORTER

Governor Christine Todd Whitman
Commissioner Frank J. Wilson

Executive Director of Communications
Sherri Hope Culver

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Camille Sinclair, Managing Editor; **Gerald Guarnieri**, Page Editor; **Frank Bridgewater**, Graphic Artist; **Edyth Hetman,** Features; **Jim Berzok, John Dourgarian and John Graf,** Contributors; **Kathleen Callahan** and **Judi Tessein**, Support Staff.

People Briefs

New Positions, Moves

Executive Director Sherri Hope Culver recently announced two additions and one move in the Communications Office. Audubon resident **Krista Rupertus** will function as Marketing Manager. As liaison between NJDOT and the Lunar Group agency, Krista will work on the HOV lanes opening and Ridesharing projects this fall. She formerly handled TV and radio advertising for Strawbridge & Clothier retail stores and was a producer on the "TeacherTV" show on The Learning Channel. In her spare time, Krista and her husband, Chuck, spoil their miniature beagle, Betsy.

Another new face is **David Brown**, who joined the Communications staff as Public Information Officer. Dave was a transportation policy analyst in the Assembly Majority Office for several years. He's also served as a legislative aide in District 22 and was a news editor for Warrall Community News. Dave, his wife, Mary Beth, and daughter, Emily, live in South Orange.

Public Information Officer **John Graf, Jr.** moved from Parkway Avenue to East State Street to handle all MVS press activities.

New Arrivals

NJDOT's **Lucy Sanderson** of the Intelligent Transportation Systems Office and her husband Gary welcomed daughter, Keara Anna, on July 18. Marissa's new sister weighed in at 8 lbs. 2 oz.

Retirees

On July 26, MVS co-workers feted retiree **Constance Ciricolo** at Roman Hall. The Special Titles Supervisor 4 made "a long story short" as she accepted the Governor's Certificate of Retirement after 30 years, 10 months of service.

Other retirees joining Connie this month are:

Donald Lohrer, Engineering Tech 1, CPM, after 42 yrs.; Walter Caddell, Regional Design Enginner, CPM, 37 Yrs., 2 mos.; Linda Wesley, MVS Technician (MIS) 27 yrs.; Evelyn Klink, MVS Support Service Rep 3, 25 yrs.; William Schoonover, Equipment Operator, Regional Operations North, 25 yrs.; Pasquale Tammaro, Mechanics Helper, Regional Operations Central, 22 yrs., 10 mos.; Beverly Schmidt, Maintenance Worker II, Regional Operations South, 22 yrs, 3 mos.;

Grace Belfiore, MVS Exam Technician, 20 yrs, 10 mos.; Barry Ruban, Electrical Mechanic, Regional Operations South, 20 yrs, 5 mos.; Catherine Calderone, Principal Clerk Stenographer, CPM, 18 yrs.; Benjamin Tavis, Highway Construction & Bridge Repair I, Regional Operations South, 16 yrs.; and Robert Pharo, MVS Support Service Rep 1, 15 yrs, 4 mos.

Obituaries

Former Pennington resident **William O'Dowd** died June 13 in Lititz, PA. The retired NJDOT administrative analyst is survived by his companion, Margaret Ricardo and his aunt.

Retired MVS employee **Mary Foggia** died July 14 in Trenton. Survivors include her husband Gino, stepsons Nicholas and Joseph, several nieces, nephews, step grandchildren and step great–grandchildren.

Ewing resident **Robert J. Horan** died July 17 in Trenton. The former NJDOT computer programmer is survived by his brother James and two nieces.

Retired NJDOT foreman **John Gaydos** died Aug 1 at his home in Browns Valley, CA. Survivors include his wife Eileen, sons Thomas and John, sisters and a grandson.

Philip E. Dunn, former NJDOT title examiner, died August 2 in Trenton. Retired from McGuire Air Force Base Public Accounting Office, Dunn was a World War II Army veteran. Survivors include his wife Beatrice, son Dennis, brothers and several nieces and nephews.

Landers presents 25-year awards

Deputy Commissioner Sharon Landers recently presented 25-year Service Awards to the following: Roland Allen; Julia Allen; Margaretta Allen; William Anderson; Vincent Anepete; Frederick Beach; Fred Betz; Nancy Blankenship; Gregory Bodholt; Mary Bogacz; Gregory Boutsikaris; James Brown; Jeremiah Brown; Alice Buck; Anthony Caserta; Guy Chiacchio; Janet Cimbala; Glenn Cliver; Henry Cole; Marvin Cole; Richard Colomy; Warren Cummings; Cynthia Szucsik; William Davis; Pasqualino DiGangi; John Dilts; Jacob Dressler; Julie Dudas; Carolyn Eversole; John Ferrante; Charles Fillius; Marlene Flanigan; Bruce Galinat; Norman Garrett; Richard Gering; Elizabeth Giambelluca; George Gligor; Anthony Hauser; Wayne Heath; Diane Hitt; William Hoffman; Lillian Jeffries; Sheila Henderson;

Magnora Jenks; James Jones; Jesse Jones; John Kaiser; Gangadhara Kasinath; Peggie Keith; Constance Kimmel; Richard Kruzelnick; John Kurbanski; John Landi; Maris Larmanis; Delores Lennon; Rudine Leonard; Louise Laysath; Nancy Lopez; Debra Mangan; Ghislain Marceau; Betty McKithen; Shawn McMullen; Janice Mitchell; Marcia Morgan; Earl Munyan; William Murphy; Harold Neil; Edward Nelling; Barbara Nixon; Malcolm Palmer; John Panico; Daniel Pankiewicz; Peter Peragino; Helen Price; Cynthia Price; Joseph Radaskiewicz; Lester Redd; Joseph Reilly; Barbara Richebacher; Robert Rifenburg; Edith Rivera; Debra Roth; Frank Rubba;

Stanley Sasor; Robert Schaeffer; James Schilling; William Schoonover; Linda Schultz; Robert Secker; Michael Seigfried; Gordon Shelton; Rolf Silvestrov; John Sindora; Joseph Sopronyi; George Spencer; Mary Stewart; Frank Stewart; Suzanne Stout; Kenneth Stracker; George Strathern; Sara Summiel; Phyllis Sutton; Robert Swain; William Swiss; Donna Szwedo; James Takacs; Alan Terbush; Diane Toboz; Alfred Tomasello; Alex Torma; Donna Wagner; Sylvia Watson; Frank Weiss; Michael Wilson; James Wood; Edward Yaksta; Charles Yates; Carl Yoders; Walter Zollins.

An Olympic moment

Sharyn Russo (right), Motor Vehicle Services Technician II in the Uninsured Motorists unit and a member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, was instrumental in having the group sponsor Jennifer Pyles (holding torch), who joined the many volunteers running the Olympic torch through Trenton. Shyhirah Howell and Don Warkenten of the organization look on.

30th anniversary

NJ TRANSIT spent $829.4 million for operating and over $610 million in capital expenses.

The present funding levels and subsequent improvements to our transportation infrastructure were made possible by the 1979 Bond Issue, and the Transportation Trust Fund, signed into law in 1984 and twice since renewed.

In the 30 years since its creation, the NJDOT has had 12 commissioners (see page 1). Our forces have fought hundreds of snow storms, dozens of blizzards repaired damage done by traffic accidents, hurricanes floods and even fire.

Computers have replaced typewriters, lightweight aluminum signs have replaced cast iron monoliths, computer-aided drafting (CADD) has placed the t–square and drafting pen on the shelf with other relics of the age, such as the slide rule and the rotary telephone.

In three decades NJDOT has studied, planned, built and maintained the transportation network. We have completed the interstate network (I-287 in 1993 and Trenton Complex in 1994) and numerous freeways that had been on the books for years. We have eliminated traffic circles, repaired rail stations and bridges and built noise walls. We re-electrified the North Jersey Coast Line and the Morris and Essex Line rail lines, expanded service in South Jersey and introduced light rail.

NJDOT has attempted to balance economic goals with environmental and social values and public outreach. We have paid more attention to the elderly and handicapped, bicyclists and pedestrians, recycling, litter control through Adopt-A-Highway, Emergency Service Patrols and congestion mitigation efforts, established Ridesharing and successfully launched high–occupancy vehicle lanes.

Last year, the Division of Motor Vehicles came to the NJDOT from the Department of Law and Public Safety. The agency examines and licenses thousands of vehicles and motorists in addition to insuring safety on the roads.

Looking towards the future, the Department is actively promoting alternative powered vehicles and signs, instituting smartcard technology for tolls and transit fares and introducing light rail.

Send in your sign comments and suggestions

Some days you really want to express your opinion about things that you see, but can't. Today is different, because NJDOT wants your opinion — of signs, that is.

Sign task force chairperson William Beetle, Director of Division of Transportation Systems Planning, is asking for your continued assistance. In April the task force asked employees to report any broken or missing signs. Now you are being asked to play another role in NJDOT's effort to improve signing.

If you notice problem signs or spots where you think signs should be installed, jot it down. Be specific in your description of the location and the situation. Include the county, the town and the road (local, state, county or interstate). If you have a solution to the problem, include that too.

Also, add your daytime phone number before you send the information to Beetle's office on the second floor of NJDOT's main office building, Parkway Avenue, Ewing.

Blue Ribbons

July 1996
To all concerned:

The innovative efforts of Departmental employees reflected in an article which appeared in the *Bergen Record* on Tuesday, June 18, should not go unrecognized.

Briefly, the staging of this project and the associate Traffic Control Plan were revised (reducing the construction time by approximately 18 months) through the joint efforts of the following: Warren Vincentz, Resident Engineer; Polina Knaster, Project Manager; John Gahwyler, Sr. Engineer, Traffic Operations North; Henry Sundt, Principal Engineer; Leonard Ahern, Principal Traffic Investigator and Joseph Sanzari, Contractor.

The new plan creates a temporary Rte. I–80 westbound lane in the Express lanes section, allowing a lane to be closed without a loss in highway capacity.

— Rod Gilmore, Project Engineer, Traffic Operations North.

June 6, 1996
Dear Commissioner Wilson:

This is a note to inform you of the kindness of your employee, Ron Vecchiolla (C&M Technician IV, Region North Construction).

My car broke down at the top of the ramp at 287. I am 70 years old and was quite frightened. Ron pushed my car to the side and called the AAA. They did not appear. After waiting over four hour, it was after six, Ron was kind enough to drive me to my daughter's home in Warren. I shall never forget his kindness to me.

— Mary Anderson, Staten Island.

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